

## **Claims**

I claim:

1. In a time division multiple access (TDMA) system, a method comprising the steps:
  - 5 listening to an assigned channel and an alternate channel;
  - performing the step of listening until a location of reverse channel signaling is determined for the assigned channel;
  - obtaining a fixed periodic rate for reverse channel signaling;
  - transmitting information on the assigned channel; and
- 10 based on the fixed periodic rate, selectively listening to the alternate channel to receive reverse channel signaling.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining comprises listening to the assigned channel.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining comprises listening to the alternate channel.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining comprises retrieving the fixed periodic rate from memory, wherein the fixed periodic rate is programmed into memory *a priori*.

5. In a time division multiple access (TDMA) system, a method comprising the steps:

selecting a fixed periodic rate for reverse channel signaling;

5 receiving a burst, wherein the burst belongs to a superframe, and the superframe comprises a plurality of bursts;

determining that at least one burst in the superframe will collide with reverse channel signaling;

buffering the received burst; and

transmitting the buffered burst at a subsequent time.

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6. The method of claim 5 wherein the burst is a voice burst.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the burst is a data burst.

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8. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of selecting is performed dynamically.

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9. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of selecting comprises retrieving the fixed periodic rate from memory, and wherein the fixed periodic rate is programmed into memory *a priori*.

10. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting comprises delaying the buffered burst by one frame.

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11. In a time division multiple access (TDMA) system, a method comprising the steps:

selecting a fixed periodic rate for reverse channel signaling for a first channel; and

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transmitting reverse channel signaling at the fixed periodic rate to a transmitting subscriber assigned to the first channel.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the TDMA system comprises an aligned slotting structure.

5    13. The method of claim 12 wherein the transmitting subscriber is assigned to transmit on a first channel on an inbound path and to receive reverse channel signaling on a second channel on an outbound path.

10    14. The method of claim 11 wherein the TDMA system comprises an offset slotting structure.

15    15. The method of claim 14 wherein the transmitting subscriber is assigned to transmit on a first channel on an inbound path and to receive reverse channel signaling on the first channel of an outbound path.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the reverse channel signaling is transmitted in a shared signaling field, and wherein the shared signaling field carries one of reverse channel signaling, synchronization and embedded signaling.